

FAO Ralph Macchio, Editor

The Ultimates #2

“Big”

Script By Mark Millar
Pencils by Bryan Hitch

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Page One

1/ Full page splash. Open with a wide shot of New York City. This is a big image of an entire section of the city being rebuilt after the Hulk/ Spider-Man tussle six months ago. There's cranes, scaffolding and everything you need to put a highly-populated neighbourhood back together and the skyscrapers of downtown in the background. One of these buildings should house the Rainbow Rooms or whichever elevated restaurant you'd like to set this opening scene in, Bryan.

CAPTION : **New York City:**
VOICE : Are you ready to ORDER, gentlemen?

Page Two

1/ Restaurant interior. This is a pretty swish-looking place with a great view of the city. Cast present here are Nick Fury (in a designer suit) and Dr Bruce Banner. Banner is deliberating over a big menu as he waiter takes his order. Fury is a cocky, slightly-swaggering Samuel L Jackson, but visualize Bruce Banner as Steve Buscemi (in glasses) playing a slightly waspish, insecure geek. He's a small, skinny man and his clothes are neither fashionable nor fit him properly. Fury, by contrast, looks great. Fury's sitting with a folder with him here which we'll see later.

BRUCE BANNER : Ah, could I have the sesame and ginger OVEN ROAST in the sweet RED PEPPER SAUCE? No ONIONS, please. They

kind of bring me out in a RASH.
WAITER : And for YOU, sir?

2/ Closer on Fury as he just hands back his menu. Curt, but polite.

NICK FURY : Just the STEAK, thanks. MEDIUM RARE.
WAITER : Thank you, sir.

3/ Fury gestures around towards the view and looks slightly embarrassed. However, we should always wonder if he's really doing all this on purpose.

NICK FURY : Listen, I'm sorry about the VIEW, Doctor Banner. All those little geniuses who organize my SCHEDULE and no-one even stops to think about where they're sitting us for LUNCH.

4/ Rotate the camera a little for a better shot from behind the nervous Banner and we see the construction work in full. Superhero battles are still pretty rare in the Ultimate universe so even a fight between Spider-Man and The Hulk should be a big deal.

NICK FURY : I just hope watching them rebuild Chelsea Piers doesn't bring the whole HULK thing back for you.
BRUCE BANNER : The Hulk?

Page Three

1/ Flashback image just to inform any readers unfamiliar with The Hulk what he looks like. This is a shot of him smashing a fist into the ground and trashing the area while Spider-Man flips over his head. Anything using the Hulk (relating to Banner that is) I'd like to be seen as though viewed through a red lens; just to convey the rage. The ground-punch is obviously to create a beat between panels.

NO DIALOGUE

2/ Cut back to the present. Close reaction shot from Banner as he raises his eyebrows and adjusts his thick spectacles a little nervously. He's clearly climbing his way back from a nervous breakdown, but trying to act normal and smiley.

BRUCE BANNER : Believe it or not, I hardly give The Hulk a SECOND THOUGHT these days, General Fury.

3/ Pull back a little as they're both given menus and Fury looks stern and relaxed as he asks a straightforward question. Banner looks nervous and a little too enthusiastic as he explains how good he's doing. At whichever point seems comfortable, by the way, have the water coming back with drinks, etc, as they wait for their food to come.

NICK FURY : Well, don't take this the wrong way, but I'm not entirely sure you're READY to come back yet, son. You need another six months SICK-LEAVE just say the word, cowboy.

BRUCE BANNER : Oh no. Believe me, sir. I really am a hundred per cent again.
BRUCE BANNER : They've got me on three blood-tests a day at the moment and
there hasn't been a trace of any HULK CELLS in my system for
almost twelve entire WEEKS.

4/ Closer on Banner, a slightly desperate look in his eyes as he tries to maintain a superficial calm and cool to get his old job back. He looks kind of sad here, the fact that he's still a bit of a mess written all over his face.

BRUCE BANNER : If I still seem slightly SPACED, it's just that I've been popping
pills to stay AWAKE a lot lately.
BRUCE BANNER : Bruce Banner being ASLEEP just feels a little too much like The
Hulk being AWAKE sometimes, if you know what I mean.

Page Four

1/ Banner tries to perk up, changing the subject and trying to be pally with Fury, but still pretty awkward around people. Nick smiles, obviously pleased with his new title.

BRUCE BANNER : What about you? How are you enjoying the new job? Doesn't
being in charge of world security get a little
DAUNTING when
you're sitting in the big chair?
NICK FURY : Man, heading S.H.I.E.L.D. is like being THE POPE, THE QUEEN and THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES all
rolled into ONE, Doctor Banner.

2/ Pull back and see what look like fairly rich and sophisticated lunch-people sitting around at their own tables, not seeming to be paying any attention at all to Banner and Fury.

NICK FURY : Even lunch with another EMPLOYEE becomes a minor
MILITARY OPERATION once your name's at the top
of the
OFFICIAL NOTEPAPER.
NICK FURY : Can you believe that half these diners are highly-
decorated
UNDERCOVER AGENTS and whatever we select
from the
menu gets tested by the COMPANY
BACTERIOLOGISTS?

3/ Cut to high above the Earth and a shot from behind a S.H.I.E.L.D. satellite (with the recognizable logo on the side) as it floats over America and picks up the conversation.

RADIO BALLOON : Every article of clothing I had has been destroyed and replaced by

a million dollar wardrobe laced with bugs and cameras.

RADIO BALLOON : Every word we're saying now is being taped, typed and analyzed

by two hundred LINGUISTICS PROFESSORS

beneath a

STARBUCKS in DOWNTOWN OREGON.

4/ Cut to a vast underground arena beneath a coffee shop in Oregon and we see dozens of technicians sitting around at monitors and sipping their Starbucks as they watch this lunch from several different angles, analyzing the speech-patterns with lie-detectors, etc.

RADIO BALLOON : Taking this position was like volunteering for a career as a

PARANOID SCHIZOPHRENIC--

RADIO BALLOON : --but the MONEY'S good and the GIRLS are pretty and being in

CHARGE allows me to smile favourably on all those little under-

funded SIDE-PROJECTS.

Page Five

1/ Cut back to both of these guys sitting at lunch. Nick is smiling slightly, knowing how excited Banner will be when he realizes this is all for real. Banner looks like he's playing it cool a little here, slightly broken after all his disappointments.

BRUCE BANNER : Such as?

NICK FURY : That SUPER-SOLDIER PROGRAM you've been working on for

the last eight years, for example.

NICK FURY : What would you say if I told you that The President just authorized a hundred and fifty billion dollar cash

injection into

your plans for a new CAPTAIN AMERICA, Doctor?

2/ Close on slightly broken-looking Banner as he stares into his wine.

BRUCE BANNER : I'd say you were LYING, sir.

3/ Fury sits back and explains how important a new Cap could be, but Banner just can't see past the gloomy reality of his situation. In the background, we can see the waiter arriving with the food. Again, I'll leave this up to you, Bryan, where you want the food delivered in terms of story-telling.

NICK FURY : What are you talking about? The first Captain America won the

war, saved the world and uncovered the secret alien-tech which

jump-started NASA, right?

BRUCE BANNER : Yeah, but he also died with the riddle of the super-soldier serum

in his veins and the closest we've come to

RECREATING that

formula was the JOLLY GREEN GIANT back there.

4/ Banner maintains his gloomy pessimism and gestures around towards the damage he did in Ultimate Marvel Team-Up, but Fury isn't even looking. He's just excited about the possibilities on the horizon.

BRUCE BANNER : Why would anyone in their right mind invest a nickel in the SSP

after what I did to CHELSEA PIERS, General?

NICK FURY : Because we're living in CRAZY TIMES, Doctor. Crime is becoming SUPER-CRIME. Terrorism is becoming

SUPER-

TERRORISM.

5/ Fury becomes really serious, explaining his thinking, and Banner looks quite taken in by what he's hearing. Could this really be the break he's been looking for?

NICK FURY : Even the fattest, most stupid politician on Capitol Hill realizes

that SON OF STAR WARS is going to be USELESS against the

kind of problems America's REALLY facing out there.

BRUCE BANNER : Are you SERIOUS about this?

Page Six

1/ Nick Fury sits back and passes Banner the little folder he was carrying. This is all the maps for the new base, etc, and explains everything. Banner looks curious. Obviously, by this point the food should start coming.

NICK FURY : Serious enough to be moving your people from that damp, little

squat in PITTSBURGH to a brand-new facility ten
miles off the
coast of MANHATTAN, Doctor Banner.
NICK FURY : George Junior's talking FIVE state-sponsored super-
people to
begin with and I figure we need someone up there
with a flag on
his chest more than EVER right now.

2/ Banner looks at the plans, almost teary-eyed. This is everything he ever
wanted and he absolutely crumbles. He's pleased and emotional-looking, but
should always be slightly annoying a lot of the time.

BRUCE BANNER : This is UNBELIEVABLE; down-sizing CONVENTIONAL
numbers and reinvesting in a small, SUPERHUMAN
UNIT for

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY PROBLEMS.

BRUCE BANNER : This is everything I ever scribbled in all those faxes
GENERAL

ROSS used to ignore. I don't know what to SAY, sir...

3/ Fury takes a sip of his drink and suddenly looks very serious again.
Banner doesn't even look up from the plans. He's got that quiet excitement
on his face and just can't tear himself away.

NICK FURY : Well, don't start nibbling my ear just yet, my friend,
because all
your recent HEALTH PROBLEMS mean that twelve-
digit

budget comes with a very specific CONDITION.

BRUCE BANNER : Which is?

4/ Intense close-up on Fury, like Banner doesn't have a choice in the matter.
He gives a very slight, sympathetic smile.

BRUCE BANNER : We're DEMOTING you to NUMBER TWO.

Page Seven

1/ Cut to the Super-Soldier Research Facility where Banner was working
before the big Hulk accident and his six months sick leave. This is an
establishing shot of the place at night time several days after the opening
scene. Imagine something small and under-funded and in the middle of
nowhere. There are several crap cars outside and it's raining.

CAPTION : **The Super-Soldier Research Facility, Pittsburgh:**

2/ Cut to interior and we see millions of ants swarming down a corridor,
carrying boxes for the big removal to the new facility where these people are

going to be based. This should look pretty surreal, but as realistic as possible as they pass a lower body-shot of Janet Pym.

NO DIALOGUE

3/ Pull back and see Janet Pym standing here and all the boxes passing her at ground-level, seemingly carried by invisible workers. She's standing here in the costume designed by Bryan which is almost completely-hidden by a 60s-style, three-quarter-length rain-coat. She looks perplexed, but good-natured as she asks a couple of smiling workers what's going on. These guys are just enjoy their coffee and give a playful reply.

JANET PYM : Am I losing my MIND here or are INSECTS helping with the

REMOVAL, Jason?

ASSISTANT : I'm sorry, Mrs Pym, but I'm afraid that's CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. You'll have to ask your HUSBAND if you

want details about the ANTS.

4/ Cut to the half-empty lab of Hank Pym. We can see half the stuff boxed up or being carried out by the ground-level ants here and the rather surreal image of him sitting at his computer (in regular clothes) and wearing the classic Ant-Man helmet. He barely registers his wife coming in, but there should definitely be a good atmosphere between them. He's just a little too absorbed in his work. Jan walks in, playfully asking what the Hell is going on.

JANET PYM : ANTS?

HANK PYM : Yeah, what do you THINK, Jan? Aren't they

INCREDIBLE?

I've got two and a half million of them clearing out the lab and

another fifty thousand keeping everyone in HOT

DRINKS.

HANK PYM : They've pretty much PERFECTED the coffee—

Page Eight

1/ Closer on Hank, still wearing his helmet, as he hesitates before drinking from his mug. He winces slightly, looking at whatever's floating around in here.

HANK PYM : --except these clumsy, little IRIDOMYRMEX HUMILIS who

keep falling in when they're adding the CREAM AND SUGAR.

2/ Pull back a little and see Hank still typing on the keyboard. He's in a good mood and completely consumed, but hasn't even turned around to

acknowledge his wife. She looks surprisingly used to this and just gives him an almost maternal smile as she picks up a bottle of pills sitting on a work-surface.

HANK PYM : It's a new form of military communication I've been
working on using PHEROMONES instead of RADIO-WAVES to
issue instructions under ENEMY RADAR.
HANK PYM : HUMAN TRIALS might still be a while away, but I feel
pretty confident we're just a few MONTHS from moving up
to SPIDERS.

3/ Closer on Jan smiling and looking at the PROZAC label on the anti-depressants. She's just happy that everything's going well for the guy.

JANET PYM : You know, you're definitely on a ROLL again, Hank. I
don't think I've seen you this super-charged about WORK
since you built that little PACEMAKER for the cat.

4/ Closer on Hank (still wearing the helmet) and he looks excited as he continues to type. There's a very enthusiastic, almost child-like enthusiasm about the guy. Character-wise, we've got him on a real UP for the next couple of issues and it's only when things start to come apart for him that the depression sinks in a few issues down the line.

HANK PYM : TELL me about it: I don't know if it's all the
ELECTRICAL STORMS we've been having lately or just the fact
that they're moving us out of this DUMP—
HANK PYM : --but the ideas for SUPER-PEOPLE are coming to me
faster than I can TYPE these days, Jan. This GIANT MAN
formula is practically writing ITSELF.

5/ Janet disappears and we just see the slightly wrinkled coat floating in the air. This is just a fraction of a second after she's shrunk and he's not in the picture at all. Pym stops typing and starts to take off his helmet.

JANET PYM : I just wish that sweaty, little BANNER guy wasn't
coming back to spoil everything.
HANK PYM : Oh, don't worry about HIM, honey. Fury's keeping
Banner busy

AMERICA on the other side of the complex with that CAPTAIN
SERUM he's been trying to crack for years.

Page Nine

1/ Hank holds out his hand and the tiny little Wasp lands on it. She looks like Tinkerbelle here. They've done this often enough in the past for it all to be very casual.

HANK PYM : The only time you'll even SEE the guy is CHRISTMAS PARTIES and PRESIDENTIAL VISITS.

JANET PYM : Oh, I'm not scared he's going to tread on our TOES or anything.

It's just those rumours about where his FUNDING was coming from during the departmental LEAN YEARS.

2/ Close on worried Janet as she stands in the middle of her husband's hand.

JANET PYM : Do you really think he was involved in those secret superhuman trials on CIVILIANS? You know, like what's-his-name was saying at BREAKFAST the other day?

3/ Hank points his finger towards the edge of the monitor (as though he's shifting a budgie) and Janet hops off.

HANK PYM : Who knows? Nobody in S.H.I.E.L.D. has a SPOTLESS RECORD, but I think Fury was being serious when he said he wanted to drag us out of the SHADOWS.

4/ Hank continues to type and Janet looks quite shocked.

HANK PYM : This SUPERHERO thing is supposed to be getting the biggest Public Relations push in HUMAN HISTORY and the fact that TONY STARK'S involved can only be a good sign, right?

JANET PYM : Tony Stark?

5/ Cut to office exterior and we see a couple of female techs standing up on chairs, looking terrified, as thousands of ants swarm around the floor. Conversation is taking place inside the lab itself.

HANK PYM : Didn't you get the E-MAIL?

HANK PYM : Apparently, the Mister Clean of the Fortune 500 came
down from a mountain and told Nick Fury he could have IRON
MAN for his nice, new team.

Page Ten

1/ Cut to an incredible establishing shot of Manhattan and one of those only-Hitch-can-draw-them panels of a small Iron Man in the distance, very realistically flying through some recognizable landmarks.

CAPTION : **Manhattan:**

2/ Cut to a closer shot of him zipping past a huge office-block and we see his visual reflected in the mirror windows. This is Tony's urban trials for the new suit Bryan designed for him.

NO DIALOGUE

3/ Reaction shot from inside the office as all the girls bounce against the filing cabinets, excited and pointing as Iron Man rockets past. Who's interested in work when the superheroes are among us?

NO DIALOGUE

4/ Cut to a monitor-bank within Stark international and we get a view different perspectives on Tony as Nick Fury, Happy Hogan and a few technical people stand around and watch how this is ticking along. Good-natured atmosphere.

NICK FURY : Does he ALWAYS show off like this when he takes the
new suits

out for a SPIN?

HAPPY HOGAN : ABSOLUTELY, General Fury. Sometimes I don't think
Tony

considers a test-run COMPLETE until he's waved at
every

OFFICE-GIRL in the CITY.

Page Eleven

1/ Pull back and we see that these guys are inside what looks like a big, futuristic hangar. The cylindrical roof slides back in two directions and we see Iron Man slowly and carefully descending. Support teams are waiting all around, some of whom have the equipment he's going to need to get out of the suit.

IRON MAN : Oh, don't believe a WORD of it, Nick. As our dear Mister

Hogan is perfectly aware, I only stop to wave at the
very, very

PRETTY ones.

JARVIS : Oh, here we go AGAIN.

2/ Focus on Jarvis as he sits back here reading an imported copy of the English horse and dog-racing magazine THE RACING POST. He's beautifully dressed as always, but has a slightly mean, seedy look about him as he sits back lazily, cigarette in hand as he scoffs at his off-panel master. Beside him, we can see a drinks tray with a couple of vodkas. Think Denholm Elliot.

JARVIS : OVER-COMPENSATING a little, aren't we, Master Tony?

JARVIS : You know what they say about BACHELOR BOYS who feel a

constant compulsion to remind us what insatiable

LADIES MEN

they are?

3/ Iron Man is sitting back and forty five degrees against a platform and being reclined by a team of technicians. Some of these guys are unlocking the helmet while other guys are unlocking the lower regions. Jarvis tuts and picks up the drinks tray again, but Nick Fury looks slightly uneasy about drinking at this time.

IRON MAN : Oh, shut up and stop giving me the CREEPS, Jarvis. You're

supposed to be the perfect ENGLISH BUTLER, for

God's sake.

What happened to those vodkas and orange I asked

for?

NICK FURY : Vodka and Orange? It's 10am, Tony.

4/ Closer on Tony and we see him for the first time here. The helmet's been taken off and he's soaking wet from all the fluid which keeps him safe inside the Iron Man armour. He's got a cocky, toothy, almost aristocratic grin on his face here as he takes a vodka from the tray and raises an eye-brow for a toast.

TONY STARK : Not in MOSCOW, old boy.

TONY STARK : CHEERS, by the way.

Page Twelve

1/ Cut to twenty minutes later and we're inside a vast workshop where all the Stark International technicians are working on a variety of projects. This should be a cross between an industrial complex and the Disney animation studios. Walking towards us up a central aisle are Tony and Nick. Tony's in full Howard Hughes mode here. He's just had a shower and is naked and barefoot, except for a big, heavy house-coat. He's also nursing another drink

in his had and is looking eccentric, intelligent and aristocratic all at once as he runs through the facts with Nick Fury.

TONY STARK : Okay, let's review this line-up S.H.I.E.L.D. are talking about:
TONY STARK : There's ME, PYM, that poor, little WIFE he shrunk and whatever

CAPTAIN MARINE we end up with once Banner cracks the
AMERICA formula, correct?

NICK FURY : That's about the SIZE of it, Tony.

2/ Closer on these guys as they stride towards us, Tony obviously finding Banner slightly distasteful. Nick seems to get along well with Tony.

TONY STARK : Couldn't we just lose BANNER? I find it hard to put my trust in

someone who turned into a GREEN GOLIATH and
trashed

Bridget Fonda's favourite New York patisserie.
NICK FURY : Out of the QUESTION, Daddio. The team needs a
LEADER and

Bruce Banner is still our best chance of turning a top
US soldier
into the new CAPTAIN AMERICA, my friend.

3/ Pull back and we've got another big arena, this time a massive office complex within the building and both Tony and Nick are relatively small figures in this vast environment. Some of the girls are swooning over Tony, the rest being pretty into what they're typing.

TONY STARK : What about this THOR guy over in Europe? Did you see that

anti-corporate piece he did for 60 MINUTES a
couple of nights
ago? He's WONDERFULLY charismatic.

NICK FURY : But still not answering his MOBILE, unfortunately. That said,

with a hammer like THAT, I'd rather have him WITH
us than
AGAINST us, if you know what I mean.

4/ Closer again as these guys just keep walking, not missing a beat.

TONY STARK : Have you talked to the FANTASTIC FOUR?

NICK FURY : After all the negative press they've been getting from their

NEIGHBOURS lately? Don't even THINK about it,
cowboy.

NICK FURY : The budget cuts we're making in the REGULAR army
are going to make us a political hot potato as it is. Why do you
line-up? think I'm not risking any MUTANTS in the initial

Page Thirteen

1/ Cut to Tony's office. Interior shot. Really go crazy here and fill this with as many crazy things as you can imagine. This should be a cross between Bill Gates and a ten year old boy. There are three dressers waiting here for him and a couple of people hold open the doors, allowing them to enter the huge room without breaking their stride. Imagine this whole journey as one big, single camera shot on the biggest set imaginable. Tony starts to disrobe.

TONY STARK : Is that why you were so keen to get ME on-board? Do I
bring a

little RENTED RESPECTABILITY to the party,

General?

NICK FURY : Never made a SECRET of it, Tony. You're a trusted
BRAND-

NAME in everything from INTERNET SOFTWARE to
aspartame-polluted DIET SODA.

2/ Nick checks out some of the Iron Man designs on a big drawing board or a computer or whatever you want to draw. Tony disrobes behind him and

NICK FURY : And, of course, this new IRON MAN armour you devised
in the

mountains doesn't exactly HURT YOUR CASE either.

NICK FURY : Light-negativity, thought-scramblers, a tracking-system
that

could find a Democrat in Texas; This is everything

we

S.H.I.E.L.D. boys ever FANTASIZED about, man.

3/ Pull back a little and we see Tony pulling on a pair of pants as his dressers stand here with the rest of what looks like a very formal outfit. Fury looks slightly suspicious.

NICK FURY : The only thing we're losing sleep over right now is why
you

changed your mind about sharing the IRON MAN

tech with my

big, bad MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX.

TONY STARK : You mean BESIDES the record-breaking contracts Stark
International just secured?

4/ Closer on Fury, pretty serious-looking.

NICK FURY : Don't try telling me it was the CONTRACTS, Tony.
Everyone and their MOTHER knows you've got twice as much
money as GOD. Why the ONE HUNDERD AND EIGHTY
DEGREES?

5/ Pull back and see Tony putting his shirt on as the dressing continues and he suddenly becomes very serious, dropping the whole eccentric billionaire thing for a moment as he pauses to carefully consider what he's about to say.

TONY STARK : In all SERIOUSNESS?

Page Fourteen

1/ Closer on Tony as he looks at us with a very serious expression on his face as he finishes off his tie. He looks super-smart here. Very much a man with a plan we couldn't even BEGIN to understand.

TONY STARK : I guess I just hit a point in my life where I wondered
what things could be like if all the billionaires and government
spooks tried to SAVE the world instead of bleeding it DRY.

TONY STARK : Does that make any SENSE to you?

2/ Reaction shot from Fury. Close, serious, but a slightly knowing smile. The two of them are going to make big changes to the world and there's an unspoken recognition in their two agendas.

NICK FURY : More than you'll ever KNOW, Monopoly Man.

3/ Pull back and see Tony pulling on his jacket, being finished off here and dusted down by his dressers. He gives Fury a little knowing smile as a call comes through on the speaker-phone from Pepper Potts on reception.

TONY STARK : Nicholas Fury, I believe this just might be the beginning
of a

BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP.

RADIO BALLOON : Sir, it's Pepper on the FRONT DESK. Your helicopter's
waiting on the ROOF...

4/ Cut to reception and we see Pepper making this call. She's an old character from the Iron Man comics I remember as a kid. Kind of sexy Shirley McLaine when she was sexy Shirley McLaine.

PEPPER POTTS : Afternoon schedule is lunch with THE PRESIDENT, that
TAKE-

OVER MEETING with MARCONI and 3pm drinks
with a Miss

CAMERON DIAZ, sir.
RADIO BALLOON : Tell the pilot the elevator ride to the roof is ONE
MINUTE and

FORTY TWO SECONDS, Pepper darling.

5/ Cut back to Tony as the doors are opened for him again and he strides out with an aristocratic confidence. Like all billionaires, quite nuts, but very likeable. Fury stands in the background and gives him a little smile as Tony exits the office alone.

NICK FURY : You're a very, very STRANGE INDIVIDUAL, Mister Stark.

TONY STARK : REALLY? I hoped being worth three hundred and fifty billion

on paper might qualify me as ECCENTRIC, General Fury.

Page Fifteen

1/ Cut to the new base or, more appropriately, the foundations of the new base a few weeks later. We should see the very beginnings of the team's official headquarters beginning to take shape here, but it's spread over a vast area of land. It's still at construction-level right now, but there are aspects of the base which look completed. It's a bright, sunny day and there should be a real feeling of a new beginning here.

CAPTION : **New York:**

2/ Cut to a helicopter landing pad on a slight elevation (think MASH) where Bruce Banner is greeted by an enthusiastic-looking Janet Pym. Banner's holding a goofy little hat on his head and looks a little frosty towards one half of the couple who've replaced him as the people in charge of this operation. She's flanked by a couple of big SHIELD guards. Banner looks kind of awkward carrying his bags.

JANET PYM : Nice to MEET again you, Doctor Banner. Would you like a

hand with that LUGGAGE? It looks kind of HEAVY.

BRUCE BANNER : No, thank you, Mrs Pym. I might not be THE HULK anymore,

but I think I'm more than capable of carrying a few
BOOKS and
a LAP-TOP.

3/ Close, slightly hurt reaction from Janet.

JANET PYM : Suit yourself.

4/ Pull back and see Banner struggle down the steps behind Janet with his bags towards a little jeep waiting for them.

JANET PYM : So what do you think of the NEW FACILITY? I know it's only

better than HALF-FINISHED, but even THIS is a million times

that rat-hole in PITTSBURGH.

JANET PYM : How you managed to work all those years in that place without

going NUTS I'll NEVER know.

BRUCE BANNER : You mean turning green and going a rampage through doesn't

QUALIFY as nuts anymore?

Page Sixteen

1/ Banner tries to lighten the atmosphere a little with an awkward and Janet smiles, uncomfortably. She's really trying to do her best with this strange little man and should come out of this scene as a people-pleaser. SHIELD guys are loading up the jeep with his bags.

BRUCE BANNER : That was a JOKE, by the way, Mrs Pym.

JANET PYM : Uh, yeah. GOOD one.

2/ Banner and Janet climb into the back of the jeep and Janet looks excited, suddenly remembering something.

JANET PYM : Oh, listen. I almost FORGOT: I couldn't BELIEVE it when Nick

Fury told me you were engaged to BETTY ROSS.

JANET PYM : Did you know she and I used to ROOM together back at NYU

before she switched to Berkeley for that

COMMUNICATIONS

DEGREE?

4/ Closer and Janet looks pretty sentimental as she obviously remembers some good times. Banner pulls another waspish expression, Janet obviously having hit a raw nerve.

JANET PYM : God, I haven't seen Betty since they released all those SPECIAL

EDITIONS of the STAR WARS movies. I can't believe

Fury's

hired her as our DIRECTOR OF

COMMUNICATIONS.

BRUCE BANNER : To be honest, we haven't been a couple for quite some time, Mrs

ANALYSIS books Pym. Betty bought one of those stupid SELF-INFLUENCE. a few months ago and decided I was a TOXIC INFLUENCE.

4/ Pull back a little and see the jeep driving through the camp as Banner is being taken to his quarters within the compound. Janet feigns surprise.

BRUCE BANNER : The last time I saw her, she'd moved to SOHO, dyed her hair

RELATIONSHIP PINK and suggested she and I try a temporary BREAK for six months.

JANET PYM : Really?

5/ Closer on them again as Janet glances side-ways with a quiet aside which Banner doesn't manage to pick up on.

JANET PYM : I can't imagine why.

Page Seventeen

1/ Cut to a short while later and Banner has been dressed and showered. We're in a huge, high-tech underground lab which looks like something of a cross between Next Generation and a Recording Studio. On the other side of some three foot thick glass, we can see Hank Pym standing in a body stocking (which covers his hands and feet) with sensors being attached to semi-casual technicians. He greets Bruce Banner who (with Janet) appears on our side of the glass with the technical supervisors. One of these young assistants grins as he jots down some stats and nods towards Banner, obviously getting on better with his old boss than the new guy.

RADIO BALLOON : Hey, Bruce. Sorry I couldn't meet you from the HELICOPTER,

GIANT but these workaholics have been prepping me for the

MAN TRIALS all morning.

ASSISTANT : Yeah, right. Like we get to make ANY of the decisions around

here. Good to see you back on your FEET again, Doctor Banner.

2/ Banner stands at the glass and flicks through the notes, trying to be nice, but always seeming like a little smart-ass. Pym's in an unstoppable good mood as they continue to hook him up with various recording instruments.

BRUCE BANNER : Let's hope you're luckier than I was with CAPTAIN AMERICA,

Dr Pym. I suppose your biggest concern with something like this

is that everything grows at the SAME SPEED, huh?
HANK PYM : Oh no. I've got the BIOLOGY worked out to the TENTH
DECIMAL POINT. I'm just worried I'll be able to stop
growing before I hit that critical SIXTY FEET mark.

3/ Cut back to Banner, pulling a face with slight confusion. Janet is being
pretty nice about it, but explaining with a good-natured expression.

BRUCE BANNER : Why? What's the significance of that?
JANET PYM : Sixty feet is the exact height at which the human
skeleton can no
longer support it's own BODY-MASS, Doctor.
JANET PYM : That BIG BABY of mine is worried his THIGH-BONES
are
going to snap even though I've told him a MILLION
TIMES that
stopping will be an AUTOMATIC REFLEX.

4/ Janet turns around and addresses Henry through the glass. The assistants
around him finish up suckering on the equipment.

JANET PYM : What do you think keeps me from shrinking smaller
than an
INCH, honey? Our NEUROLOGY won't let us change
size to the
point where the PHYSICAL BODY is in DANGER.
HENRY PYM : Well, it's time to put that PILLOW-TALK of ours
to the TEST,
sweetheart.

Page Eighteen

1/ Cut to the other side of the glass and we get a pretty good look at the big
amphitheater where Pym intends to grow to full height. The technicians all
clear on cue.

RADIO BALLOON : TESTING begins in T-10 SECONDS, ladies and
gentlemen.

Clear THE AREA, please...

2/ Cut back inside the little studio and everyone looks a little impatient as
they check the equipment. The only person who looks calm and confident in
Pym's abilities is his wife and she seems to be supervising everything.
Banner watches with cautious interest.

ASSISTANT : No sign of any PHYSIOLOGICAL changes yet anyway.
JANET PYM : Patience is a VIRTUE, Jason. Give him TIME.

3/ Close on Pym's hand as the body-stocking around it starts to unravel and
his fingers start poking through. This is a shot from Pym's POV.

NO DIALOGUE

4/ Close on Pym as he holds up his hand and watches with an awe-struck fascination as the material curls and shrinks smaller and smaller; his hand obviously just getting bigger and bigger, but the perspective should be kind of skewed for effect.

HANK PYM : Oh my God...

RADIO BALLOON : Don't be SCARED, honey. Just remember that this is exactly

what you WANTED to happen.

5/ Shot from immediately behind Pym and we see the body-stocking starting to tear down the middle of his back. He's starting to panic here, clutching his head. However, our main focus should be Janet Pym standing on the other side of the glass with the others and reassuring him the whole time via microphone.

HANK PYM : No, there's something WRONG here, Jan. Everything's SHRINKING instead of ME getting BIGGER...

RADIO BALLOON : No, everything's FINE, Hank. It's just your PERCEPTIONS

changing. Close your eyes if you're SCARED.

Page Nineteen

1/ Cut to the lights above Hank Pym exploding like firecrackers. Was this his voice? Was this an energy wave? Who can say?

NO DIALOGUE

2/ Cut back to the little studio and we can see that the amphitheater has been plunged into darkness. This place is still brightly-lit and everyone is starting to panic. Janet is keeping a cool head, but she rapidly assuming control of the whole procedure.

RADIO BALLOON : JAN! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?

JANET PYM : Nothing to WORRY about, honey. Just a little TECHNICAL

GLITCH. Support; shut-down the power along tracks forty-seven

and forty-eight and hit the FLOOR-LIGHTS, please.

3/ Shot through the glass and a radio voice screaming from the pitch-blackness. Nobody can see WHAT'S happening to poor Hank Pym here.

RADIO BALLOON : OH MY GOD! OH MY GOD! I'M TURNING INSIDE-OUT, JAN! STOP THE EXPERIMENT! I'M TURNING INSIDE-

OUT!

4/ Cut back to Jan who just pushes one of the technicians out of the way and hits the emergency light-switch herself.

JANET PYM : What are you WAITING for, you numbskull?
JANET PYM : HIT the BLASTED LIGHTS!

Page Twenty

1/ Pull back for a big, full page splash and a spectacular image of a sixty foot tall Hank Pym (pretty much naked) and sitting here in the electric-blue up-light from the floor. He looks pretty calm and is smirking slightly as he looks out at us, having pulled a fast one in the darkness to wind everyone up. Make this look almost supernatural.

HANK PYM : GOTCHA, suckers.

Page Twenty One

1/ Close-up reaction shot from Janet Pym as she narrows her eyes and looks up with a kind of 'you'll get yours' good-natured smirk. Janet is mercifully interrupted by one of the technicians as he looks excited and reads out the exact size of 'Giant Man'. The reality of all this is only just beginning to hit him.

JANET PYM : HANK PYM, I'm gonna KICK your—
TECHNICIAN ONE: Fifty nine FEET, eleven and a half INCHES?
TECHNICIAN ONE: Way to GO, Dr Pym!

2/ Pull back for a wider shot of the scene and we see everyone celebrating, Jan over by the window and kissing her husband's gigantic face through the glass. Everyone else is whooping, including a young, West Coast kinda technician who looks around at Banner with an almost evangelical excitement. Banner tries to feign interest.

TECHNICIAN TWO : Oh, MAN! On a scale of ONE to TEN, how much did that

ROCK, Doctor Banner?

BRUCE BANNER : Oh, TEN, Jason. Definitely TEN.

3/ Cut to one of those red panels, an intense close-up of The Hulk's angry eyes as he seethes with frustration and fury.

NO DIALOGUE

4/ Head and shoulders on Banner; the crushing pain and disappointment staring out of his eyes as he gives a feeble, pretty sarcastic whoop.

BRUCE BANNER : Yee-hah.

Page Twenty Two

1/ Cut to Doctor Banner's pretty elaborate studio flat within the complex. I'll leave the specifics up to you because you're so good at this stuff, Bryan, but just bear in mind that he's a slightly arrested thirty-something who can't form relationships. Meaning, Playstation 2, CDs lying everywhere, comics, Buffy videos, Star Trek videos, a 'cool' Buffy poster or two and a big, wide-screen television with old black and white footage of Captain America being shown on the Sci-Fi Channel. Banner's sitting here, scruffy and slightly drunk, with a bottle of wine and a notepad as he turns down the volume with a remote and talks to Nick Fury on a cordless telephone.

CAPTION : **Dr Banner's Quarters:**

BRUCE BANNER : How am I DOING? How do you THINK I'm doing, General?

BRUCE BANNER : Hank Pym is swaggering around and calling himself GIANT

MAN and I'm sitting here with a bottle of wine and scribbling

useless equations all over a FOOLSCAP PAD.

2/ Closer on Banner curled up here on the couch and we should see that he's been crying. He's not a hateful character. He's actually quite child-like and we should feel sorry for him here as opposed to wanting to kill him as he rants.

BRUCE BANNER : Why am I letting this guy just WALK ALL OVER ME like this?

He's going to end up creating the whole blasted

TEAM if I don't

crack this idiotic SUPER-SOLDIER formula soon.

BRUCE BANNER : And why can't I OPEN MY MOUTH to these people without

coming off like a complete and utter...

3/ Closer on Banner, wiping his nose.

BRUCE BANNER : EXCUSE me, General?

4/ Cut to Fury sitting in some cool, dark office. He's sitting behind his desk and nursing a drink with a smile on his face. He's delighted by the latest turn of events, but maintains that Nick Fury cool as he relays the information into his speaker-phone.

NICK FURY : I said shut up and crack open that bottle of champagne you've

been saving for the next season of STAR TREK, Doctor Banner.

The answer to your prayers has just been
ANSWERED...

Page Twenty Three

1/ Full page splash. Cut to a SHIELD base in Newfoundland and an overhead shot of the 1940s Captain America unconscious and thawing out on a big, slightly old-fashioned operating table. He's surrounded by SHIELD technicians here who're doing this very gradually and we should see the costume quite clearly. I don't think we should have him in the ice. Visually, I think it would work better if it had already melted by this point and we're capturing the image at the precise moment they can finally get their hands on him.

CAPTION : "...You're not going to believe what they've just fished
out of the
Arctic Ocean."

TO BE CONTINUED